SONY

TCW550

STEREO CASSETTE DECK

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Before operating the unit, please read this manual thoroughly and retain it for future reference.

OWNER'S RECORD

The model and serial numbers are located at the rear. Record the serial number in the space provided below. Refer to whenever you call upon your Sony dealer regarding this product.

Model No	Serial No.



Photo: TC-WR750

WARNING

To prevent fire or shock hazard, do not expose the unit to rain or moisture.





This symbol is intended to alert the user to the presence of uninsulated "dangerous voltage" within the product's enclosure that may be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of electric shock to persons.



This symbol is intended to alert the user to the presence of important operating and maintenance (servicing) instructions in the literature accompanying the appliance.

INFORMATION

This equipment generates and uses radio frequency energy and if not installed and used properly, that is, in strict accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, may cause interference to radio and television reception. It has been type tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B computing device in accordance with the specifications in Subpart J of Part 15 of FCC Rules, which are designed to provide reasonable protection against such interference in a residential installation. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

Reorient the receiving antenna

Relocate the equipment with respect to the receiver Move the equipment away from the receiver

Plug the equipment into a different outlet so that equipment and receiver are on different branch circuits.

If necessary, the user should consult the dealer or an experienced radio/television technician for additional suggestions. The user may find the following booklet prepared by the Federal Communications Commission helpful:

"How to Identify and Resolve Radio-TV Interference Problems". This booklet is available from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402, Stock No. 004-000-00345-4.

FEATURES

Double decks

The unit consists of two decks: deck A for playback and deck B for recording/playback.

Two-speed dubbing

Normal speed for dubbing while monitoring the selections. High speed for dubbing the whole cassette in a short time.

Edit functions

By the auto pause function, the playback and recording decks pause automatically each time the played back selection ends, then you can search for another selection to dub (for TC-WR750).

By pausing the decks manually while dubbing, you can search for any portion to be dubbed with the rightward/leftward fast winding.

Type B and C Dolby noise reduction* system

Reduces tape hiss noise in low level high frequency signals.

Quick reverse (Deck B of the TC-WR750)

Enables almost continuous playback and recording while the tape side is being switched.

Other features

- Relay playback for long hours
- Synchronized recording with a turntable system (for TC-WR750)
- Record muting
- Handy remote control operation (with the optional Sony RM-88 remote control unit)
 - * Dolby noise reduction manufactured under license from Dolby Laboratories Licensing Corporation.

 "DOLBY" and the double-D □□ are trademarks of Dolby Laboratories Licensing Corporation.

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PRECAUTIONS

On safety

- Operate the unit only on 120 V ac.
- Should any solid object or liquid fall into the cabinet, unplug the unit and have it checked by qualified personnel before operating it any further.
- Unplug the unit from the wall outlet if it is not to be used for an extended period of time. To disconnect the cord, pull it out by the plug. Never pull the cord itself.

On installation

- Good air circulation is essential to prevent internal heat build-up in the unit. Place the unit in a location with sufficient air circulation.
- Do not install the unit near heat sources such as radiators or air ducts, or in a place subject to direct sunlight, excessive dust or mechanical vibration.
- Install the unit with the front panel facing toward you. Do not install the unit in an inclined position.

On head cleaning

The heads and tape path should be cleaned after 10 hours of operation.

Dirty heads and a dirty tape path cause:

Loss of high frequency response

Loss of sound volume

Sound drop-outs

On operation

Because of the safety mechanism, the function buttons will not operate if the cassette holder is not closed completely and if there is no cassette or if a cassette has been incorrectly inserted into the cassette holder.

For the customers in the USA

For detailed safety precautions, see the leaflet "IMPORTANT SAFEGUARDS".

This instruction manual covers the TC-WR750 and the TC-W550. When differences occur, they are clearly described in the appropriate sections.

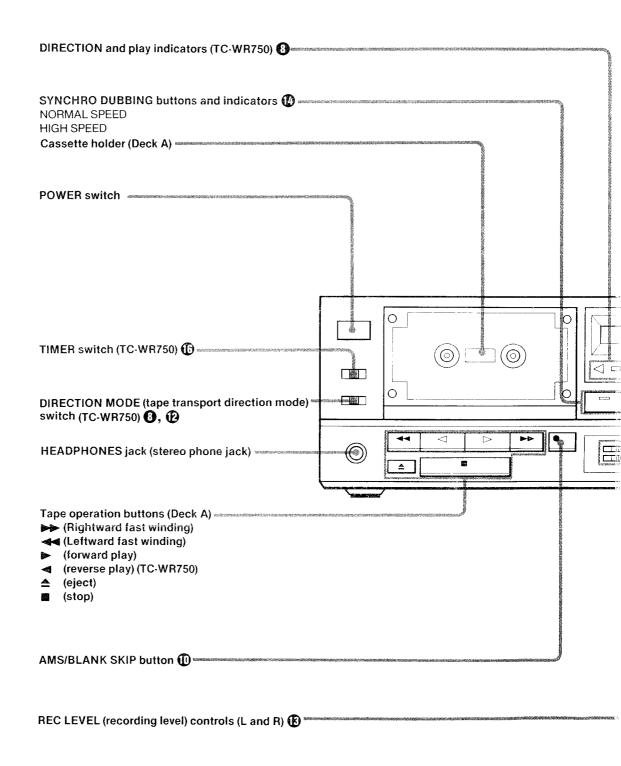
The major differences in the features are listed in the following table.

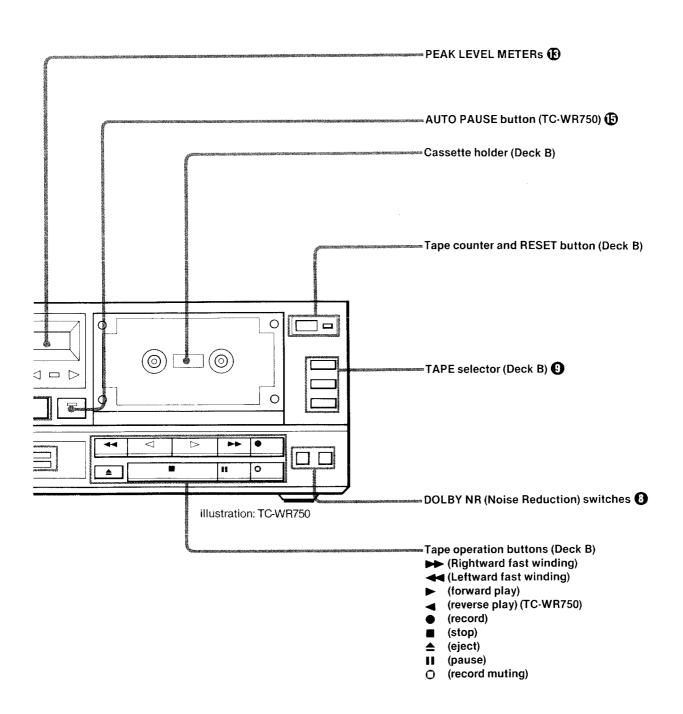
	TC-WR750	TC-W550		TC-WR750	TC-W550
Automatic tape reverse	0	_	Relay play (Deck A → B or	0	0
2-speed dubbing	0	0	B → A)		
Edit function	0	0	Timer activated recording/	0	_
Automatic pausing	0		playback		
AMS* and blank skip	0	0	Record muting with an	0	0
Type B and C Dolby noise	0	0	automatic spacing		
reduction			Auto play after fast	0	0
Wireless remote control	0	0	winding		
(optional)			Automatic tape selector	0	0
Synchronized recording with	0	_		(Deck A)	(Deck A)
a turntable system					

^{*} Automatic Music Sensor

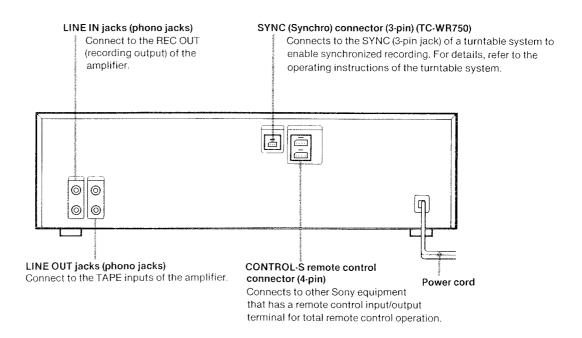
LOCATION AND FUNCTION OF CONTROLS

Refer to the page indicated with for details.





CONNECTIONS



CONNECTION NOTES

- Connect the AC power cord last. Make sure POWER is OFF.
- Fully insert cable connectors into jacks. Loose connections may cause hum or noise.
- For amplifier connections: note that the red plug of the supplied connecting cord is for right-channel connection and the white plug for left-channel connection.

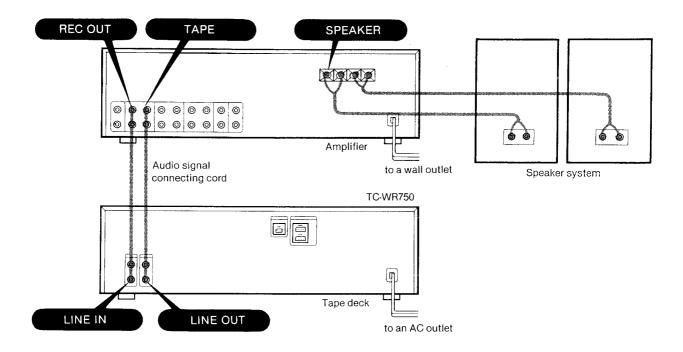
Remote control cord (4-pin)



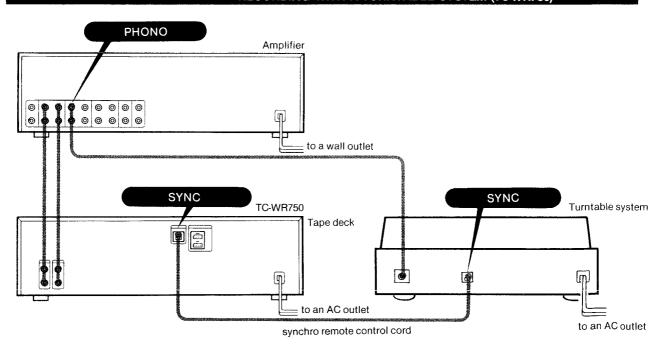
Synchro remote control cord (3-pin)



CONNECTION DIAGRAM



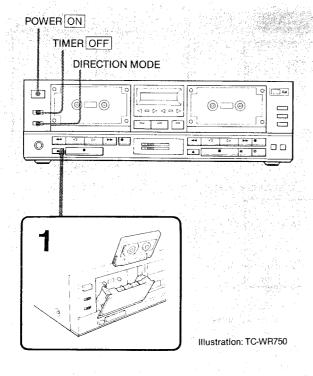
CONNECTIONS FOR SYNCHRONIZED RECORDING WITH A TURNTABLE SYSTEM (TCWR750)



TAPE PLAYBACK

SINGLE DECK PLAYBACK (on either deck A or B)

Set the amplifier input selector to tape monitor.



- 2 Start playback.

For TC-WR750

From the front side of a cassette	Press ▶.
From the reverse side of a cassette	Press ⊲ .

For TC-W550

Press ▶.

To stop playback

Press .

To pause for a moment during playback (on deck B only)

Press 11.

To restart playback, press 11 again.

How to set the DIRECTION MODE switch (TC-WR750)

To play back either side once	
To play back both sides once	7
To play back both sides repeatedly	0

How to use the DOLBY NR switches

Dolby NR (noise reduction) system reduces tape hiss noise in low level high frequency signals. The system boosts these signals in recording and lower them in playback. Therefore, the DOLBY NR switches must be set to the same position as was used when the cassette was recorded when playing back.

Dolby NR system	Setting of the switches		
	ON/OFF (left)	B/C (right)	
B type	Д	П	
C type	<u> </u>	Д	
OFF	Д	⊐ or □	

Important

The TIMER switch must be OFF because... (TC-WR750)

Otherwise, when the power is turned on, recording or playback will start automatically in a few seconds.

Automatic tape type detection

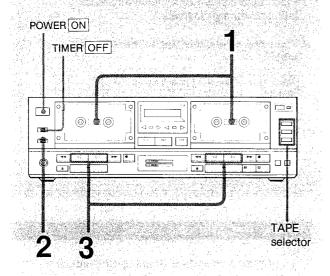
When playing back of TYPE I (normal), TYPE II (CrO2) and TYPE IV (metal) cassettes with deck A, the automatic type detection system adjusts the equalization setting to the optimum according to the type of cassette the system detects.

DIRECTION and play indicators (TC-WR750)

The DIRECTION and play indicators indicates the side of the cassette being played back or recorded.

Indicators	Side of the cassette being played back or recorded	
=>	Front side	
<■	Reverse side	

TO PLAY BACK BOTH DECKS IN SUCCESSION (from deck A to B or vice versa)



Illustration; TC-WR750

1 Insert recorded cassettes in both decks.

2 Only for TC-WR750 Set DIRECTION MODE.

To play back either side once on deck A and B.	*
To play back both sides once on deck A and B.	¬
To play back both sides on deck A and B repeatedly.	Φ

3 For TC-WR750

Press ▶ or ◀ on deck A or B as desired.

For TC-W550

Press ▶ on deck A or B as desired.

To stop relay play

Press ■ of the deck being used.

When playing back with deck B

The TAPE selector has to be set according to the type of tape used. Refer to the following table.

Tape type	Tapes (C30—C90)
TYPE I (NORMAL)	SONY HF, HF-S, HF-ES Other TYPE I equivalent tapes (For 120 µs EQ and NORMAL BIAS)
TYPE II (CrO ₂)	SONY UX, UX-S, UX-ES, UX-PRO Other TYPE II equivalent tapes (For 70 µs EQ and HIGH BIAS)
TYPE IV (METAL)	SONY METAL-ES Other TYPE IV equivalent tapes (For 70 µs EQ and METAL BIAS)

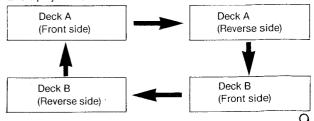
When both decks A and B are in the playback mode Only playback from deck A will be audible.

To play back more than two cassettes in succession

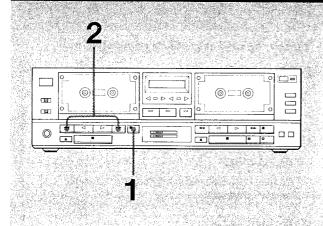
Replace the cassette that was played back with a new one. More than two cassettes can be played back alternatively on each deck.

Playback sequence of relay play (TC-WR750) (DIRECTION MODE: 🗘)

Relay play always follows the sequence below regardless of where playback starts.



TO LOCATE THE BEGINNING OF A SELECTION (on either deck A or B) - AMS (Automatic Music Sensor)



- 1 Press AMS/BLANK SKIP to illuminate its indicator during playback.
- 2 Press ▶ or ◀ referring to the following table.

DIRECTION	Side of	Point to search	for
and play indicator*	cassette being played	Beginning of next selection	Beginning of current selection
■ ►	Front	>>	44
41	Re- verse*	*	>>

*only for TC-WR750

TO PLAY BACK AUTOMATICALLY AFTER FAST WINDING (on either deck A or B)—Auto play

- 1 Check that the AMS/BLANK SKIP is deactivated.

 If the indicator on the button is on, press the button to deactivate the function.

To play back from the beginning of the front side	Press ◄ while keeping ▶ pressed.
Only for TC-WR750	
To play back from the	Press >> while keeping
beginning of the reverse side	✓ pressed.

TO SKIP A BLANK—Blank skip

Press AMS/BLANK SKIP to illuminate its indicator.

The deck automatically enters the fast winding mode where there is a blank of approximately 10 seconds or more. Playback begins when a new selection starts.

Notes on the AMS

- The AMS does not function on both decks simultaneously. The
 deck whose ▶ or ◄ button is pressed first enters the AMS
 mode. If the ▶ or ◄ button is then pressed on the other
 deck, it simply enters the fast winding mode.
- The AMS does not operate on deck B during playback on deck A.
- If the AMS is operated on deck A during playback on deck B, deck B's sound is cut off and deck A fast winds to the beginning of a selection and then begins playback.
- The AMS may not operate correctly.
- If there is noise in the space between selections.
- If the space is less than 4 seconds long.

To assure correct operation of the AMS, insert a 4-second or longer blank space using the record muting function.

- The AMS will treat the following as blanks:
- a long pause in the music.
- a passage of low frequencies or very low volume.
- gradual increase or decrease of volume.

Should the above happen, press AMS/BLANK to deactivate the function. $\,$

 If the ➤ or ■ button is pressed immediately before the following selection, the AMS may locate the selection after the one immediately following.

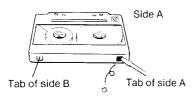
If the AMS/BLANK SKIP button is pressed when both decks A and B are playing

- The blank skip function can be activated for deck A only.
- The AMS does not function when the blank skip function is operating.

NOTES ON CASSETTES

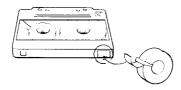
To prevent accidental erasure

To protect side A recording, break out the tab of side A.



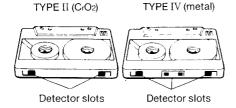
To reuse a cassette

Cover each slot with plastic tape.



When using TYPE II (CrO₂) or TYPE IV (metal) cassettes

Be careful not to cover the detector slots which are necessary for automatic tape selector activated on deck A.



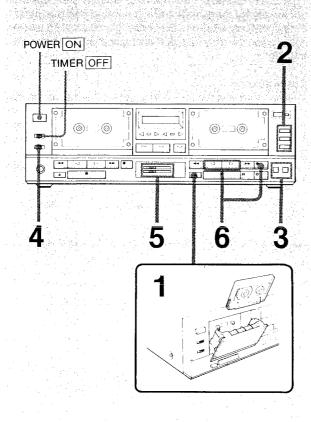
120-minute cassettes are not recommended except when necessary for long continuous recording and playback 120-minute cassettes use extremely thin tape which tangles easily when the tape transport is stopped and started frequently.

Cassette care

- Avoid touching the tape surface of a cassette, as any dirt or dust will contaminate the heads.
- Keep cassettes away from equipment with magnets, such as speakers and amplifiers, as erasure or distortion on your recorded tape could occur.
- Do not expose cassettes to direct sunlight, extremely cold temperatures or moisture.

RECORDING

RECORDING (Only on deck B)



- 2 Select the tape type with the TAPE selector.
- 3 Select the DOLBY NR system.
- 4 For TC-WR750 Set the DIRECTION MODE switch.

To record either side	
To record both sides	⊃or ⇔

- 5 Adjust the recording level.
 - 1) Press ●.
 - 2) Play the program source to be recorded.
 - Adjust the level with REC LEVEL. (See "RECORDING LEVEL ADJUSTMENT".)
- 6 Start recording.

For TC-WR750

To record only the front side or both sides of a cassette	Press ► while keeping ● pressed.
To record only the reverse side of a cassette	Press ◄ while keeping ● pressed.

For TC-W550

Press ▶ while keeping ● pressed.

To stop recording.

Press ■.

Illustration: TC-WR750

If you start recording from the reverse side of a cassette (TC-WR750)

Recording stops at the end of that side regardless of the DIRECTION MODE setting.

The TIMER switch must be OFF because... (TC-WR750)

Otherwise, when the power is turned on, recording or playback will start automatically in a few seconds.

Source monitoring

While recording, the recorded source can be monitored through the speakers or headphones. Playback on deck A cannot be made while recording on deck B.

If the DIRECTION indicator(s) blink(s) when the ● button is pressed (TC-WR750)

Recording is possible only on the side(s) shown by the blinking indicator(s).

If an indicator does not blink, recording cannot be made on that side because the cassette tab has been removed.

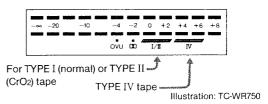
If the side whose tab has been removed was selected when you start recording... (TC·WR750)

The deck goes into the playback mode instead of the record mode

RECORDING LEVEL ADJUSTMENT

The optimum recording level varies according to the tape type being used. The PEAK LEVEL METERs indicate the appropriate range of the recording level for type I / II and IV tapes.

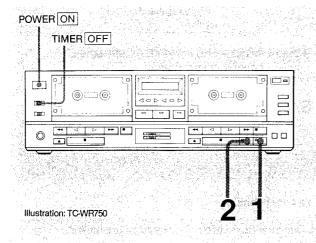
Adjust the REC LEVEL controls (L and R) so that at the highest levels the right-most segments stay with the range indicated in the display.



When the segments frequently exceed the range, the level is too high.

TO INSERT A BLANK SPACE DURING RECORDING-Record muting

Using the O button during recording, you can insert a blank space for four seconds long for locating the beginning of a selection (AMS) or eliminate unwanted input by replacing a blank space.



1 Press O button during recording.

The II indicator blinks and the incoming signals are not recorded on the tape.

After four seconds, the tape will stop automatically and the II indicator will light up.

2 Press 11 again to resume recording.

Tips on recording level adjustment

- If the recording level setting is too high, the recording will be distorted, and if it is set too low, the tape will produce a hissing sound.
 - Adjust the recording level as high as possible without producing distortion.
- If the program source to be recorded has many high frequency signals, set the level to relatively low.

To start recording more precisely

- 1 Press II after adjusting the recording level.
- 2 Press or ▶ while keeping pressed.
- 3 Press II again at the desired point to release the recording pause mode.

Recording will begin.

To insert a blank space over four seconds long

- 1 Keep O pressed for as long as desired. After four seconds, the II indicator blinks rapidly. When you release O, the unit enters pause mode.
- 2 Press | again to resume recording.

TAPE DUBBING (from deck A to deck B)

TAPE DUBBING

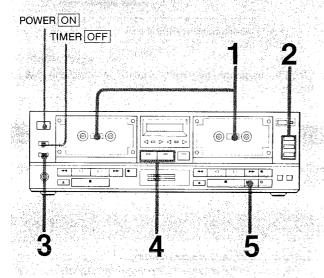


illustration: TC-WR750

- 1 Insert a recorded cassette into deck A and a blank cassette into deck B.
- 2 Press the appropriate TAPE selector for deck B.
- 3 Set the DIRECTION MODE switch (TC-WR750).

		Switch position
To dub on one	To dub on one side of a cassette	
To dub on both sides of a cassette	Dubbing of the reverse side starts independently of deck A.	. 🗅
	Dubbing of the reverse side starts simultaneously with deck A.	O

4 Press HIGH SPEED or NORMAL SPEED to select either dubbing speed.

Deck B enters the pause mode.

5 Press II on deck B.

Dubbing begins from the side indicated by the DIRECTION and play indicators.

To stop dubbing

During normal speed dubbing	Press ■ on deck B.
During high speed dubbing	Press ■ on either deck A or B.

If the tab(s) of the cassette inserted into deck B has been removed

The indicator on either the NORMAL or HIGH SPEED button blink three times and then extinguishes, indicating that dubbing is not possible on that cassette. Cover the detector slot with a plastic tape (see page 11).

Recording level adjustment and Dolby NR switch setting

When dubbing, the blank tape in deck B is recorded with the recording level and Dolby noise reduction system the same as the original tape in deck A. Therefore, these adjustment and setting are not required when dubbing.

During high-speed dubbing

Only the **m** button is operative.

Caution

During recording or dubbing, the sound is sometimes impaired by a TV set. If this happens, move the TV set away from the stereo system or turn it off.

If you start dubbing from the reverse side of a cassette (TC-WR750)

Dubbing stops at the end of that side regardless of the DIRECTION MODE setting. $\label{eq:decomposition} % \begin{subarray}{l} \end{subarray} % \begin{subar$

EXAMPLES OF EDITING IN THE NORMAL SPEED DUBBING

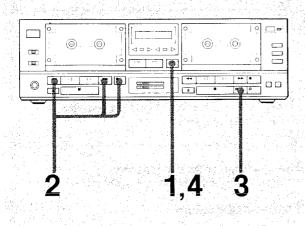


Illustration: TC-WR750

To dub only disired selections (TC-WR750)

1 Press AUTO PAUSE during normal-speed dubbing.

Each time one playback selection on deck A ends, deck A enters stop mode and deck B enters recording pause mode.

- 2 Search for another desired selection by pressing AMS/BLANK SKIP, and ◄ or ▶ on deck A.
- 3 Press II on deck B. Dubbing begins again.
- 4 Press AUTO PAUSE to release the auto pause mode.

To dub only desired portions of a selection

- 1 During dubbing, press on deck A at the disired portion to be skipped.
 Deck B enters the recording pause mode.
- 2 Search for the desired portion to be dubbed by pressing ◄ or ▶ on deck A. When you find the portion, press ■.
- 3 Press II on deck B. Dubbing begins again.

To insert a 4-second blank space between selections

Press O during recording on deck B.

To dub using the blank skip function

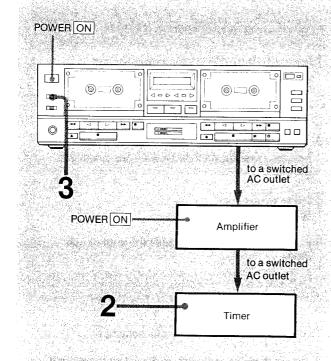
Press AMS/BLANK SKIP during normal-speed dubbing. Where the tape on deck A has a blank more than 10 seconds long, the deck enters the fast winding mode to search for the beginning of the next selection.

During that period, deck B fast winds the tape to make a blank of 5 seconds, and enters pause mode.

When deck A resumes playback, dubbing resumes.

TIMER ACTIVATED RECORDING AND PLAYBACK (TC-WR750)

By connecting any commercially available timer, it is possible to start recording or playback automatically at a desired time.



1 Make the following preparations.

To play back	Set the amplifier input selector to tape monitor. For single deck play back, insert cassette in deck B. For relay play, insert cassettes in both decks A and B.	
To record (on deck B)	Perform steps 1 through 5 on page 12.	

2 Set the timer for the desired time. The power of the tape deck will be cut off.

3 Set the TIMER switch.

	Switch position
To play back	PLAY
To record	REC

Playback or recording will begin at the predetermined time.

Important

When the timer activated playback or recording is complete Be sure to set the TIMER switch to OFF.

If the TIMER switch remains in the REC position, the unit will automatically enter the recording mode the next time the power is turned on, and the previously recorded material may be erased.

For single deck playback, use deck B.

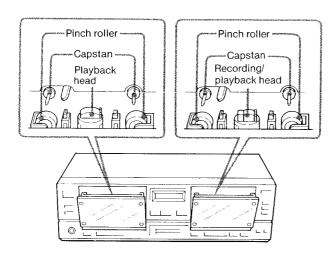
Deck A cannot alone be used for timer activated playback.

MAINTENANCE

CLEANING THE HEADS AND TAPE PATH (both decks)

Clean all surface over which the tape travels after every 10 hours of operation. However, cleaning before every recording is recommended to obtain high quality recording sound.

- 2 Wipe the heads, the pinch rollers and the capstans with a cleaning tip slightly moistened with tape cleaning fluid or alcohol.



Do not reinsert a cassette until cleaned areas are completely dry.

DEMAGNETIZING THE HEADS (both decks)

After 20 or 30 hours of use, or when you notice hiss and/or loss of high frequencies, the residual magnetism built up on the heads should be removed.

- 1 Turn off POWER.
- 2 Demagnetize the heads with any commercially available demagnetizer.

Refer to the instruction manual of the demagnetizer for detailed instructions.

CLEANING THE CABINET

Clean the cabinet, panel and controls with a soft cloth slightly moistened with a mild detergent solution.

Important

Do not use any type of abrasive pad, scouring powder or solvent such as alcohol or benzine.

SPECIFICATIONS

Recording system 4-track 2-channel stereo Fast-winding time

Approx. 90 sec. (with C-60 cassette)

Bias frequency 105 kHz

Signal-to-noise ratio (NAB, at peak level)

Dolby NR switch Cassette	OFF	B-TYPE ON	C-TYPE ON
TYPE IV (Sony METAL-ES)	58 dB	65 dB	71 dB
TYPE II (Sony UX-S)	57 dB	64 dB	70 dB
TYPE I (Sony HF-S)	54 dB	61 dB	67 dB

Total harmonic distortion

1.0% (with Sony METAL-ES cassette)

Frequency response (DOLBY NR OFF)

TYPE IV cassette (Sony METAL-ES)	30 – 15,000 Hz (±3 dB) 30 – 13,000 Hz (±3 dB, 0VU recording)
TYPE II cassette (Sony UX-S)	30 – 15,000 Hz (±3 dB)
TYPE I cassette (Sony HF-S)	30 - 14,000 Hz (±3 dB)

Wow and flutter 0.07% WRMS (NAB)

Inputs/Outputs

Line inputs (phono jacks)	Sensitivity Input impedance	77.5 mV (-20 dB) 50 kilohms
Line outputs (phono jacks)	Rated output level	0.44 V (-5 dB) at load impedance 47 kilohms
	Load impedance	Over 10 kilohms
Headphones output (stereo phone jack)	Output level	-28 dB at load impedance 8 ohms

General

Weight

Power requirements

120 VAC, 60 Hz

Power consumption

23 W

Dimensions Approx. $430 \times 130 \times 275 \text{ mm (w/h/d)}$

 $(17 \times 5^{1}/_{8} \times 10^{7}/_{8} \text{ inches})$

including projecting parts and controls

TC-WR750: Approx. 5.0 kg (11 lbs 1 oz) TC-W550: Approx. 4.9 kg (10 lbs 13 oz)

Supplied accessories

Connecting cord (2) Remote control cord (1)

Optional accessory

Wireless remote control unit RM-88

Design and specifications subject to change without notice.

TROUBLESHOOTING

The following troubleshooting will help you correct the most common problems encountered with a tape deck. Should any problem persists after you have made these checks, consult your nearest Sony service facility.

Before proceeding with these trouble checks, first check these basic points:

- The power cord must be firmly connected.
- Amplifier connections must be firmly made.
- Heads, capstans and pinch rollers should be clean.
- The amplifier controls and switches should be set correctly.

	Trouble	Cause and remedy
DRT	The tape does not run when the operation button is pressed.	The unit does not work for about two seconds after the power is turned on. →Wait until the II indicator goes off.
SP(The cassette is not properly inserted.
AN		The cassette holder is not properly closed.
PE TF		The II button is pressed. → Press the II button again to release the pause mode.
T QN	Playback or recording begins just as the power is turned on (TC-WR750).	The TIMER switch is not set to OFF. → Set the TIMER switch to OFF.
NS A	The transport noise seems excessively loud at the fast winding mode.	No trouble. This situation depends upon the cassette used.
ΙĔ	The automatic shut-off mechanism activates before the	The cassette has tape slack.
B .	tape ends.	The cassette is defective.
NO.	The ● button does not activates.	No cassette is in the holder.
ERAT		The cassette tab has removed. → Cover the hole with plastic tape (page 11).
TAPE OPERATION BUTTONS AND TAPE TRANSPORT	The AMS function does not operate.	A blank space is too short (less than 4 seconds). → Insert over 4-second blank with the record muting button.
		There is noise in the blank space between selections.
	Playback cannot be heard, recording cannot be made, or	The heads are dirty.
Š	the sound level decreases.	The connections are not made properly.
AYBA		The amplifier input selector is not set to the correct position.
<u> </u>	Excessive wow and flutter or drop out	The heads, capstans or pinch rollers are dirty.
ANE	Incomplete erasure	The erase head is dirty.
DING	Noise or erasure occurs.	Magnetic build-up on the head. → Demagnetize the head.
RECORDING AND PLAYBACK	Unbalanced tone in higher frequencies.	The DOLBY NR switch is not set to the correct position. → During playback, set the switch to the same position used when the cassette was recorded.
		The unit is placed near a television set.
	A hum is heard.	The unit is placed directly on or under the amplifier. → Move the unit away from the amplifier.
NOISE	Noise is recorded.	Recording is made near a television set or a color monitor. → Move the unit away from the television set or color monitor.